

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 MAPUTO 001463

SIPDIS

AID/W FOR BHR/OFDA - MMARX; AFR/SA - DMENDELSON;
AFR/AA - LPIERSON
NAIROBI FOR REDSO/ESA/RFFPO; BHR/OFDA - GGOTTlieb
MAPUTO FOR OFDA/DAR
ROME FOR FODAG
GENEVA FOR RMA, DHA, IFRC
PARIS FOR WILLIAMS
LONDON FOR PFLAUMER, RUETER
PRETORIA FOR POL - RAGSDALE, MCNAMARA
NSC FOR AFRICA DIRECTORATE
E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAID](#) [MASS](#) [PREL](#) [SENV](#) [MA](#)

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE (GRM) MEETING ON
THE DROUGHT SITUATION.

1. AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE COORDINATING COUNCIL
FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT WAS HELD ON OCTOBER 27,
2005. THE MEETING WAS CHAIRED BY PRIME MINISTER
(PM) LUISA DIOGO AND INCLUDED THE MINISTER OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ALCINDA ANTONIO DE ABREU AND THE
DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR DISASTER
RESPONSE (INGC), SILVANO LANGA. REPRESENTING THE
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT (USG) WERE AMBASSADOR HELEN
LA LIME, USAID MISSION DIRECTOR JAY KNOTT, USAID'S
FOOD FOR PEACE OFFICER SUZANNE POLAND AND USAID'S
FOOD SECURITY AND DISASTER RESPONSE ADVISOR LEONOR
DOMINGOS.

2. ALTHOUGH FIELD DATA AFTER MAY 2005 WAS NOT READY
FOR DISSEMINATION, THE PM DIOGO REFERED TO A
SIGNIFICANT DETERIORATION OF THE FOOD SECURITY
SITUATION, ESPECIALLY IN THE DROUGHT AFFECTED
DISTRICTS OF CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN MOZAMBIQUE. THE
PM SAID THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO ATTRIBUTE DEATHS TO
HUNGER GIVEN THAT MANY PEOPLE IN THE DROUGHT
AFFECTED AREAS ARE ALSO AFFECTED BY POVERTY AND
DISEASES SUCH AS MALARIA OR HIV/AIDS.

3. PM DIOGO REFERED TO ABOUT 600,000 AFFECTED PEOPLE
AND INDICATED THAT THE GRM HAS COMMITTED
APPROXIMATELY THREE MILLION US DOLLARS FOR MEDIUM
AND LONG TERM DROUGHT MITIGATION ACTIVITIES. SHE
ADDED THAT THE GRM REQUIRED HELP FOR HUMANITARIAN
ASSISTANCE. THIS WAS THE SAME MESSAGE DELIVERED TO
THE AMBASSADOR BY THE GOVERNOR OF INHAMBANE DURING
HER OCTOBER 24-26 TRIP TO THAT SEVERELY DROUGHT
AFFECTED PROVINCE.

4. THE DIRECTOR OF INGC PRESENTED THE GRM'S
CONTINGENCY PLAN, FOLLOWED BY THE UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM'S (UNDP) PRESENTATION OF THE
UNITED NATION'S (UN) DROUGHT RESPONSE. OVERALL THE
SUMMARY WAS THAT THE CONTINGENCY PLAN INCLUDING THE
WFP FOOD AID IS ONLY PARTIALLY FUNDED. THE GAP IS
ABOUT US DOLLARS 15,000,000 THROUGH MARCH 2006. THE
FOOD GAP FOR THE PERIOD IS ESTIMATED AT 16,207
METRIC TONS.

5. PM DIOGO EMPHASIZED THAT THE GRM ENCOURAGES WHERE
POSSIBLE LOCAL PURCHASES OF FOOD AND COMMENDED THE
EFFORTS OF WFP TO PURCHASE FOOD ON LOCAL MARKETS.
THIS YEAR 30% OF THE CEREALS WERE LOCAL PURCHASES.
(COMMENT: USAID'S CONTRIBUTION TO WFP REPRESENTS
ABOUT 45% OF THE FOOD AVAILABLE TO WFP FOR
DISTRIBUTION).

6. THE FAO REPRESENTATIVE POINTED OUT THAT THE
CURRENT SITUATION IS NOT A SLOW ONSET DROUGHT BUT
RATHER THE RESULT OF A SEMI ARID CROPPING
ENVIRONMENT THAT CHARACTERIZES THE AFFECTED AREAS.
HE REFERED TO A MAP OF 1954 THAT SHOWS VERY SIMILAR
CLIMATE CONDITIONS AS TO THOSE PREVAILING IN RECENT
YEARS. FARMERS' AND GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO ADAPT
TO THESE CONDITIONS LIES AT THE HEART OF THE CURRENT
EMERGENCY SITUATION.

7. THE MISSION AGREES WITH THIS POSITION AND
ENCOURAGES THE GRM TO INCORPORATE THIS REALITY INTO
ITS FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS FOR CONTINGENCY PLANNING
IN SUCH A WAY AS TO COVER A GREATER SHARE OF THE
NEEDS THAN THE CURRENT 30%. IN ADDITION TO
BOLSTERED GRM PLANNING CAPACITY, THE MISSION ALSO
SUPPORTS THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE'S EFFORTS TO
INTRODUCE MORE APPROPRIATE CROPPING SYSTEMS IN
AFFECTED AREAS.

8. MISSION WILL FOLLOW DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY AND
DISCUSS THE USG RESPONSE AFTER THE IMMINENT RELEASE
OF THE INTERMINISTERIAL VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT
GROUP'S OCTOBER REPORT.

LA LIME